MARVEL

44

WOLVERINE® ORIGINS

WAY
BRAITHWAITE
REINHOLD
TROY

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WOLVERINE
ORIGINS

The mutant Wolverine has spent a century fighting those who would manipulate him for his unique powers—razor-sharp claws, heightened senses, and a healing factor capable of miracles. After repeated brainwashing, torture, and reprogramming, Wolverine's past was as much a mystery to him as to anyone. With those long-lost memories returned to him, Wolverine has set out on a mission to punish the conspirators who have wronged him.

Now, Logan has finally caught up with the mysterious figure known only as Romulus, the man that has been secretly manipulating him his entire life. Over the course of the epic battle that ensued, Logan learned that Romulus's grand scheme was for Logan and Daken—Logan's dangerously misguided son—to fight to the death, determining who would take Romulus's place at the top of the food chain.

But Logan knows that even if he kills Romulus now, he will be playing into Romulus's ultimate plan…and Daken will inevitably come for him, forcing Logan to kill his own son. The only answer to the problem as Logan sees it is to destroy Romulus's empire. And to do it he's trying to enlist the aid of a few powerful individuals. Bruce Banner and his Hulk-like son Skaar, the Silver Samurai and the mutant teleporter called Cloak have all agreed to help Logan on his journey. Next on Logan's list is the red sphere-headed criminal known as Ruby Thursday...but before he can even ask her to help…Logan's gonna have to bust her out of the super-prison known as the Raft…

DANIEL WAY
WRITER

DOUG BRAITHWAITE
PENCILS

BILL REINHOLD
WITH GARY ERSKINE
INKS AND WASHES

ANDY TROY
COLORS

VC'S CORY PETIT
LETTERS & PRODUCTION

DOUG BRAITHWAITE
COVER ART

JODY LEHEUP
ASSISTANT EDITOR

JEANINE SCHAEFER
EDITOR

AXEL ALONSO
GROUP EDITOR

JOE QUESADA
EDITOR IN CHIEF

DAN BUCKLEY
PUBLISHER

ALAN FINE
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

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SHANK

HELLO, RUBY...

...ARE YOU READY TO GO HOME?

I TELL HER WHAT I NEED FROM HER. I LAY IT ALL OUT.

I TELL HER MORE THAN I'VE TOLD ANYBODY.

I HAVE TO.

'CAUSE WITHOUT HER THIS PLAN GOES NOWHERE, FAST.

SHE'S THE KEY.

HMMM...

YOU... NEED MY HELP.

AN' YOU NEED MINE.

UNLESS, O' COURSE, YOU WANNA STAY HERE...

WITH YER FRIEND...

WHAT CAN I SAY? YOUR CHARM AND ROGUISH GOOD LOOKS HAVE WON ME OVER.

I'LL DO IT.

HOW DID YOU GET IN HERE, ANYWAY?

THAT PART WAS EASY.

AAAND... GETTING OUT?

THE HARDWAY

PART 4

IF YOU'RE THINKING OF HOLDING ME AS A *HOSTAGE*--

I'M NOT.

YOU CAN GO.

...YOU DO REALIZE, THE *ALARM* SOUNDED THE *SECOND* YOU CUT THE LOCK ON HER DOOR.

YEP.

AND THAT THIS PLACE WILL BE *FLOODED* WITH *ARMED RESPONSE OFFICERS* IN ABOUT--

TWENTY SECONDS.

ALL RIGHT, THEN...

...SEE YOU AGAIN SOON.

I CAN SEE WHY YOU LIKE 'ER.

SHE'S A LITTLE *FIRECRACKER*, ISN'T SHE?

NOW, THEN...

"ABOUT OUR ESCAPE..."

DAMPERS ARE UP AND RUNNING *FULL-FORCE*, SIR. ALL SUPER-POWERS WITHIN A *ONE-MILE RADIUS* ARE *NEGATED.*

THEY MAY HAVE BEEN ABLE TO TELEPORT *IN*, BUT THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO TELEPORT *OUT.*

PULL UP THE VIDEO FEED FOR THAT WING—I WANNA SEE THEIR FACES WHEN THEY REALIZE THEY'RE *TRAPPED.*

UP NOW, SIR.

IT'S *WOLVERINE.*

YES, SIR. IT *IS.*

WE'VE TRAPPED WOLVERINE INSIDE THIS PRISON.

YES, SIR... IS THERE A *PROBLEM*, SIR?

"YES.

"WE'VE TRAPPED WOLVERINE INSIDE THIS PRISON."

DEE-DEE-DEET!

LOCK DOWN THAT *WING*. TELL THE RESPONSE TEAM TO *FALL BACK*. HAVE THEM SPREAD OUT TO COVER *ALL EXIT POINTS*.

DEE-DEE-DEET!

SIR? YOUR *PHONE* IS RINGING.

OH, FOR--

UNKNOWN

BEEEP!

WE NEED TO BE ABLE TO TALK TO HIM--IS THERE A *PHONE EXTENSION* IN THAT CORRIDOR?

DEE-DEE-DEET!

@#%*!

LOOK, I DUNNO WHO YOU ARE BUT--!

YOU HAVE A PROBLEM.

I CAN HELP.

WHO *IS* THIS? HOW DID YOU GET THIS NUMBER?

I HAVE EVERYONE'S NUMBER.

YOU'VE UNINTENTIONALLY CORNERED WOLVERINE INSIDE YOUR FACILITY.

YOU'RE SMART ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT A DIRECT COURSE WILL RESULT IN MASSIVE DESTRUCTION AND DEATH.

I CAN, AS I'VE SAID BEFORE, HELP YOU...BUT FIRST, TELL ME:

"WHO IS HE THERE FOR?"

YOU DO HAVE A PLAN, RIGHT?

I'M WORKIN' ON IT.

DAMPERS ARE *MAXED*, RIGHT?

YES...

I AM UNABLE TO TELEPORT... EVEN A FEW FEET.

THEN LET'S *BLOW THE DAMPERS!*

AN' LET *EVERYBODY* OUT TO PLAY? NO DICE, HONEY.

I CAME HERE FOR YOU AN' YOU, *ALONE.*

OH, HOW SWEET...

ODDS ARE, WHAT THEY'LL DO IS TRY TO *CONTAIN* US, KEEP US BOTTLED UP UNTIL THEY CAN GET SOMEBODY ELSE *ON-SITE.* SOMEBODY *BIGGER.*

SOMEBODY *SUPER-POWERED.*

AND WHEN THAT SOMEBODY SHOWS UP...

THEY'LL LOCK DOWN THE CELLS, THEN DIAL THE DAMPERS DOWN SO THEIR HEAVY-HITTER CAN OPERATE FREELY. *I GET IT!*

SO, WE *WAIT?*

FOR WHAT, TO GET OUR *ASSES* KICKED? *HELL,* NO.

"I GOT A MORE *PROACTIVE* APPROACH IN MIND."

HE'S *MOVING*, SIR!

SIR?!

I'VE ANSWERED YOUR QUESTIONS, NOW YOU ANSWER *MINE*-- HOW ARE YOU GONNA *HELP* ME?

"I'M ALREADY HELPING YOU."

UNKNOWN

SSHRANG!

I'LL GIVE YOU THESE JUST M-MAKE IT LOOK LIKE *I PUT UP A FIGHT*, OKAY?

WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?

"I GOT KIDS, MAN..."

WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON WITH THE CAMERAS?!

DON'T KNOW, SIR!

WORKING TO GET THEM BACK UP--

--GOT IT!

OH, #$%&...

WHERE IS HE?!

SECTOR CHECK!

SECTOR A, NEGATIVE.

SECTOR D, NEGATIVE.

SECTOR B...

...NEGATIVE.

SECTOR B

SECTOR C, NEGATIVE.

SPREAD OUT FOR A SWEEP SEARCH?

SECTOR E, NEGATIVE.

AND HAVE HIM CUT US DOWN *ONE BY ONE?* NOT A CHANCE.

ALL UNITS, HOLD POSITIONS.

ANY WORD FROM *H.A.M.M.E.R.* YET?

STILL *STANDING BY*, SIR.

THEN TRY *AGAIN.*

H.A.M.M.E.R. COMMAND, THIS IS *THE RAFT.* AWAITING--

H.A.M.M.E.R. COMMAND TO RAFT: **COUNTER-MEASURE HAS BEEN APPROVED.**

SOLUTION IS IN-BOUND.

GO.

SIR!

I HEARD.

ALL UNITS, FALL BACK TO THE--

CONTACT! WE HAVE CONTACT IN SECTOR B!

SECTOR C MOVING TO REINFORCE--

NEGATIVE!

ALL UNITS, FALL BACK TO THE BLOCK HOUSE!

BOOOOM

WHAT WAS *THAT?*

JUDGING BY THE ***SIZE*** OF HIM...

"...I'D SAY HE'S OUR ***SOLUTION.***"

YOU'VE BEEN BRIEFED?

YES.

GOOD.

WHEN YOU'VE MADE ***DIRECT CONTACT***, GIVE THE SIGNAL AND WE'LL LOWER THE DAMPER FIELD SO THAT YOU CAN OPERATE.

DIRECT CONTACT.

"HE WAS LAST SPOTTED IN ***SECTOR B***, WHICH IS IN THE SOUTHEAST QUADRANT."

...AND ***WHY***, EXACTLY, DID YOU GIVE AWAY OUR POSITION?

'CAUSE WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME.

REPORTIN' CONTACT'LL MAKE IT EASIER FOR HIM TO ***FIND*** US.

"HIM"?

YEAH.

HIM.

UHH... ***WARDEN?***

WE'LL DO INTRODUCTIONS LATER--NO TELLIN' WHEN H.A.M.M.E.R.'S *REAL* HEAVY-HITTER WILL SHOW.

CALL IT IN, SKAAR.

DIRECT-

KA-ROOM!

UNHH--!

THIS IS *ARES*.

DIRECT CONTACT.

RRAUGH!

CLOAK!

CAN YOU--?

I'LL... TRY...

WROKK!

SKAAR! FALL BACK!

"FALL BACK"?

NOT MY STYLE.

KRUNCHH!

GET 'ER TO THE MAINLAND WHILE ARES IS DISTRACTED. TELL 'ER TO *LAY LOW* UNTIL SHE HEARS FROM ME.

WHAT ABOUT... *YOU?*

THIS IS *MY* FIGHT, NOT *HIS*. I STARTED IT...

...I HAFTA END IT.

WHOA.

THAT WAS...GROSS-FEELING...

HUHRR...

I'D THINK *YOU'D* BE USED TO IT, THOUGH...

NOT...THE TELEPORTATION THAT'S... BOTHERING ME...

OOH... BABY, YOU'RE *BLEEDING.*

HAVE TO...GO *BACK...*

GO BACK *THERE?!* WHAT'RE YOU, *NUTS?*

HAVE TO... GET THEM OUT...

WELL, GOOD LUCK WITH *THAT.* I'M OUT AND I PLAN ON *STAYING* OUT.

WOLVERINE SAID TO...*LAY LOW.*

HMM...

WANNA LAY LOW *WITH* ME?

NO.

HMPH. SUIT YOURSELF.

I'M GONNA GO FIND SOME *ACTION.*

KROKK!

I'LL FINISH WITH YOU LATER, *RUNT.*

IN THE *MEANTIME...*

...HOW 'BOUT YOU LET THE *BIG BOYS* HAVE SOME FUN.

SOUNDS GOOD TO *ME...*

DAMMIT, SKAAR...YOU WERE ONLY SUPPOSED TO STICK AROUND LONG ENOUGH TO *COVER OUR ESCAPE*, NOT GET INTO A SLUGFEST WITH A DAMN *OLYMPIAN.*

THIS FIGHT'LL TAKE *FOREVER--*

SKAAR!

INCOMING AIRCRAFT!

"HIS REINFORCEMENTS ARE ON THE WAY!"

LET THEM COME.

THAT'S THE SPIRIT...

NO, SKAAR.

THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT THE *HULK* WOULD'VE DONE.

THIS IS SQUADRON LEADER, APPROACHING--

BANK LEFT HARD! NOW!

KARR

ROOOM!

YOU COULD'VE AVOIDED *HITTIN'* 'EM.

THERE ARE *LOTS* OF THINGS I COULD'VE DONE.

WE HAVE A *PLAN.*

I NEED YOU TO *STICK* TO THAT PLAN.

WHAT YOU *NEED...*

...IS TO *BACK UP.*

WOLVERINE...

WE'RE NOT DONE.

NO.

WE'RE *NOT.*

I'M... SORRY...

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

C'MON, I'LL GET YOU PATCHED UP.

WHERE'S *RUBY?*

NOW THAT WE HAVE *THAT* OUT OF THE WAY...

...I WOULD LIKE YOU TO ANSWER A FEW *QUESTIONS.*

TO BE CONCLUDED...

NEXT